

1 Corinthians 9

King James Version (KJV)

9 Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? (Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes)

²If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord. (The Christians at Corinth are the proof that Paul was sent to them by God; apostle = a sent one)

³Mine answer to them that do examine me is this, (Paul was being criticized by "holy Joes")

⁴Have we not power to eat and to drink?

⁵Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? (Cephas is Peter)

⁶Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working? (Paul had a profession <tent making> so he didn't ask for money to teach. He was being criticized by money grubbing preachers, for not getting paid in tithes. He made the begging preachers look bad)

(A preacher taking a modest salary from tithes is OK. Getting rich off of tithes is not. Paul preferred to sell tents for a living and to preach for free)

⁷Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? (Paul is making a case for preachers to get paid a reasonable salary for teaching. He should make a salary that is comparable to the salaries of the people he teaches. Stay away from wealthy preachers. They are doing it for the money)

⁸Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?

⁹For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

See Deuteronomy 25:4, 1Timothy-5:18 (The ox is working for the farmer, let it eat) (Do you think that God cares more about oxen than people? No He doesn't)

¹⁰Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. (We all have a different part to do in God's ministry. Some plow, some sow, some reap. All are equally entitled and will receive blessings for their work. All are allowed to have a salary in recompense for their work)

¹¹If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

¹²If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ. (Paul didn't even ask for a salary. He earned a living as a tentmaker)

¹³Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? (The priest got a share of the animal sacrifice in the old Hebrew law. Today, the preacher is entitled to a reasonable salary, comparable to the salaries of his flock, if he teaches the Word of God chapter by chapter, verse by verse. He is not entitled to all the money he can collect)

(If the preacher teaches from his / her own sermons, instead from God's Word, he / she deserve nothing. These are traditions of men and not of God)

¹⁴Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel. (See Old Testament; preachers who only teach the New Testament are not teaching God's Word fully. The Old and New Testaments go together like a pair of shoes)

¹⁵But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void. (Paul earned his living through tent making, not on tithes. He taught because he

believed in Jesus Christ as God with us. He knew that he was sent by God Himself)

¹⁶For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! (God deserves the glory and praise, not the preacher)

¹⁷For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me. (Paul's reward will be in Heaven) (The Gospel also teaches that those who refuse God and teach men's doctrines <sermons> will be dealt with in the Millennium)

¹⁸What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel. (Paul taught humbly and converted many people. He knew that God loved him and would reward him in the after life)

¹⁹For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (Paul was a free born Roman citizen. But he served people as a minister should serve his flock)

²⁰And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; (Paul's mother was a Benjamite, his father was a Roman citizen. He studied the Old Testament in the Temple at Jerusalem under Gamaliel. He learned the New Testament under Jesus Christ and the Apostles)

(Jesus fulfilled the blood ordinances for all time, on the cross. HE never ended the law <the 10 Commandments> as some preachers teach)

²¹To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. (These were the heathen who didn't know Christianity – the gentiles; Paul taught them using everyday common sense. The 10 Commandments are common sense)

²²To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. (Paul set himself on the student's level to reach them. He didn't have any ego problems)

²³And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you. (Paul did it for God and to bring God's blessings to these people)

²⁴Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. (Learn the Word and do your best to live it the best you can. Work at it to become better)

²⁵And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. (Only through Christ will we obtain immortality. Helping other to find God will increase your reward in Heaven. The ways of the world <wealth, power, status> won't help you in the afterlife)

²⁶I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: (Paul was zealous in spreading the Word of God, and he was persecuted for it. He wasn't concerned about the ways of the world or the people who tried to stop him)

²⁷But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. (Practice what you preach. The preacher is not above the Word. To teach falsely or for one's personal gain will result in disgrace)

(Look around – wealthy preachers begging the congregation for tithes, and teaching traditions of men. They will get nothing in the after life)